

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 287

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, NI

SUBJECT: GOWON SAYS GOVERNORS TO BE MOVED BEFORE DECEMBER 31

REF: (A) LAGOS 4486 (B) LAGOS A25, MARCH 3, 1975

1. IN WAKE RISING SPECULATION AND COMMENT ABOUT FAILURE TRANSFER MILITARY GOVERNORS OF COUNTRY'S TWELVE STATES IN ACCORD EARLIER PRONOUNCEMENTS (REF A), GENERAL GOWON SET NEW TIMETABLE OVER WEEKEND. ADDRESSING RECEPTION THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION REGIMENTAL SERGEANTS-MAJOR EVENING JULY 19, HEAD OF STATE ASSURED COUNTRY THAT GOVERNORS WOULD BE REASSIGNED BEFORE END OF YEAR. DENYING HE HAD EVER PROPOSED GOVERNORS BE SACKED, GOWON SAID PRESENT GOVERNORS HAD HELPED NATION THROUGH PERIOD OF CRISIS "WHEN THING WERE HOT AND DIFFICULT." LAGOS STATE MILITARY GOVERNOR, WHO RECENTLY CALLED FOR REASSIGNMENT OF GOVERNORS ASAP, WAS AMONG GUESTS AT RECEPTION.

2. COMMENT: POSSIBLY GOWON INTENDS COMBINE APPOINTMENT COMMISSIONERS FOR RECENTLY-CREATED MINISTRIES WITH REASSIGNMENT INCUMBENT GOVERNORS AND APPOINTMENT NEW ONES. IT MAY EVEN BE POSSIBLE FMG PLANNING ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION ON CRATION NEW STATES (ALSO PROMISED BEFORE END OF YEAR, REF. B)

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TO COINCIDE WITH APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS. WHATEVER THE

DATE OF REASSIGNMENT IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT DECISIONS WILL BE
POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL WHICH SCHEDULED
RUN THROUGH THIRD WEEK DECEMBER (RUMOR TO THIS EFFECT HAS
BEEN CIRCULATING LAST COUPLE WEEKS). SATISFYING THOSE YOUNDER
MEMBERS MILITARY THIRSTY FOR POWER AND PERQUISITES OF GOVERNOR-
SHIPS AND SIMULTANEOUSLY FINDING SUITABLE JOBS FOR DEPARTING
GOVERNORS NOT EASY TASK. IT FURTHER COMPLICATED BY NEED
MAINTAIN TRIBAL AND ETHNIC BALANCE IN APPOINTMENTS. POST-
PONEMENT UNTIL AFTER FESTIVAL THUS LIKELY WELCOME RESPITE
FOR GOWON AND ADVISORS.
CROSBY

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